

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

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R 260813Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 712

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, VN

SUBJECT: KOREA AND VIETNAM

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR  
LATE NOVEMBER 24 RAISED TWO QUESTIONS RELATING TO VIETNAM;  
STATUS OF THREE KOREAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS STILL  
HELD IN SAIGON AND US POSITION ON VIETNAM  
MEMBERSHIP IN UN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ROKG REMAINS VERY CONCERNED  
REGARDING STATUS OF THREE KOREANS STILL HELD IN JAIL BY  
VIETNAMESE. THREE OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY RECEIVING  
BETTER FOOD AND TREATMENT, BUT EFFORTS TO SECURE THEIR  
RELEASE CONTINUE TO BE UNSUCCESSFUL. ROKG HAS BEEN  
WORKING PRIMARILY THROUGH FRENCH GOVERNMENT, WHICH  
RECENTLY RAISED ISSUE WITH VISITING VIETNAMESE VICE  
MINISTER IN PARIS. VICE PRESIDENT OF KOREAN RED CROSS,  
AMBASSADOR CHI, ALSO TALKED TO VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVES  
AT RECENT ICRC CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

2. FONMIN ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING DURING OUR  
PARIS TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR  
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POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD APPEAR FRENCH ARE STILL BEST

CHANNEL FOR CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE, BUT WOULD PRESENT QUESTION TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. FON MIN ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT US POSITION ON VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP IN UN. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD AGAIN VETOED VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP ON BASIS OF INADEQUACY OF INFORMATION ON MIA'S. HE WONDERED WHETHER WE WERE MAKING THIS THE SOLE CONDITION FOR VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP OR WHETHER WE WOULD LINK IT TO ROK MEMBERSHIP AS WE HAD DONE IN PAST. IN THIS CONNECTION HE ALSO NOTED THAT WE HAD NOT VETOED ANGOLA MEMBERSHIP. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT SO FAR VIETNAM HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON MIA ISSUE, BUT AVOIDED ANSWERING FONMIN'S QUERY ON LINKAGE TO KOREAN MEMBERSHIP. FONMIN DID NOT PRESS FOR WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE AND WE NEED NO RESPONSE AT THIS TIME.  
SNEIDER

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